Beat the heat

Kelso Conservation Area continues to draw swimmers to the reservoir this summer. Enjoying the water are: Jeni Cargill, Gini Ramsay, Kyle Gough, Dave Chadwick, Keith Wadham and Jayson Gilbert.

Photos by John Warren

Marketing boards better

price-fixed products are not exported to the international market, he feels "they should be left alone."

Another international problem bothering farmers is pesticides.

In some instances, agricultural items are allowed into the country sprayed with pesticides that are banned in Canada, creating, argued Milton farmer Bert Andrews, an unequal playing field.

Agreeing it was a problem, Mr. Ramsay suggested that Ontario could turn its reputation for "clean, safe and pure" products into a strength by promoting it.

"You don't have to be competitive in price — especially in food," he said.

Related to this, the issue of 'organic' or chemical free farming was also raised, with Halton Centre MPP Barbara Sullivan noting that the products are taking up an ever in-

creasing amount of space on supermarket shelves.

A number of speakers, however, decried the lack of regulation on organic food.

Mr. Ramsay agreed, noting that while a product may be grown chemical-free, there could very well be contaminants in the soil. "Is each turnip going to be checked for residue?"

While plugging the provincial government's recently announced $151-million interest relief program for farmers, the minister cautioned it dealt only with "the symptoms and not the cure."

It's just to provide some "breathing room."

He said he'd like to see a task force created to tour the province and come up with some long term programs to address farmers' concerns, rather than reacting "on an ad hoc basis."